

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) In a communication device, a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further including transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

9. (original) In a communication device, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

10. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further includes transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

11. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

12. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

13. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

14. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.

15. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.

16. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

17. (original) A communication device for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

means for sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

means for listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

18. (original) The communication device of claim 17, further including means for transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

19. (original) The communication device of claim 17, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

20. (original) The communication device of claim 17, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

21. (original) The communication device of claim 20, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

22. (original) The communication device of claim 17, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.

23. (original) The communication device of claim 17, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.

24. (original) The communication device of claim 17, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

25. (original) A communication device for determining participants in a net within in a group communication network, the communication device comprising:

a memory unit for storing information about participants in the net;
a transmitter to send a message to a controller;
a receiver to receive a response from the controller; and
a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver, the transmitter, and the memory unit, the processor being capable of:

sending a message to a controller, the message being for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

26. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the processor further is capable of transitioning the communication device to an inactive state if the controller does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

27. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

28. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

29. (original) The communication device of claim 28, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

30. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the response includes information indicating that the response corresponds to the message.

31. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the response includes information indicating whether the communication device is a participant in the net.

32. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the sending includes sending the message through a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

33. (original) The communication device of claim 25, wherein the communication device is a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

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